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FORTY CLUB

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*A Volume portraying
the Members, and
containing some of the
Loving Cup Verses.*

*Published for the
Twenty-fifth Annual
Dinner in Honor of
the Ladies.*

CHICAGO
APRIL TWENTY-THIRD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWELVE

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WILBUR D. NESBIT
CHICAGO

1127-9



BIFF HALL

William T.

father of Benjamin H. Hall

WE never could hope—we who knew him—
to tell

Our tender regard for “Biff” Hall;
As friend, as companion, as brother, as—well,
A prince of good fellows, that’s all.

The Forty Club's History

THE exact date of the organization of the Forty Club cannot be determined. It is not hard to satisfy oneself how the club happened to come into existence, but of tangible records of its early days there is nothing definite.

¶ This much we know, that the dinner in honor of the ladies in 1912 is the twenty-fifth. Will Moore possesses a printed list of the members in 1888, which list was part of the program of the dinner for the ladies in that year.

¶ But the Forty Club had then been in existence for a good while. It is more than probable that it is over thirty years old.

¶ It is an organization that just happened because it had to be. In the beginning, a number of choice spirits fell into the habit of gathering together for a friendly dinner occasionally. Before long these occasions assumed regularity, and at that time was established the unwritten law of the Forty Club that its dinners, unless good and sufficient reasons prevented, should be held on the evening of the third Tuesday in the month.

¶ William T. Hall, of revered memory, known to everybody as "Biff," was the leader in the coterie of good fellows who formed the nucleus of the Forty Club. Nobody knows when the real club organization was effected, but there are vague recollections that at the dinner which marked the actual club organization there were thirty-eight men present. Why the name "Forty" was chosen, who

The Forty Club's History

suggested it, or how it became thus perpetuated, is unknown.

¶ The only exact knowledge we have of the club rules of the old days is the principle that has ever since been about the only by-law of the club: "The ladies are always present, whether they are here or not." This is a rule which has always been unwritten, unspoken and unbroken by the members of the club.

¶ Of the original Forty the club today has in its membership Frank Morris, Lyndon D. Powers, Will J. Davis, Leigh Reilly and Jos. H. Defrees. None of these gentlemen remembers many of the incidents and facts concerning the beginnings of the club. These details, naturally, did not seem of much moment at the time, although today they would assist the club materially in setting up some archives.

¶ "Biff" Hall, however, was the first and only president of the Forty Club until he passed on. After his death it was seriously proposed to disband the club as a testimonial to his memory, but after much deliberation the conclusion was reached that to continue the club in existence would do even more to keep green and fair his memory. George Ade was then chosen as the head of the organization, and after serving several years he retired. Hon. John Barton Payne succeeded him as president. When he retired from the office Wilbur D. Nesbit was selected for the position.

¶ As the club grew in popularity it was seen that the limitation of membership to forty was too small. An associate membership was created. When a vacancy in the "Forty" occurs an associate member is elevated. Distinguished guests and friends of the club are eligible to honorary membership.

¶ When this book was projected several of the older members of the organization were asked for their recol-

The Forty Club's History

lections. The results have been summarized in the foregoing, but in addition we have the following interesting statement from the pen of Will J. Davis:

¶ "My boy was born a few years after the Forty Club came into existence and when he grew old enough to miss me at the dinner hour and to make quite a fuss because I was not in my accustomed seat, I told Biff Hall it was best for me to drop out of the club until young Davis was old enough to excuse me occasionally from the home dinner circle; so for four years I was not with the club at all. Afterward I was an occasional guest of some member. Later there was a vacancy and I returned to the fold.

¶ "At the Forty Club dinners have gathered such well remembered old-time club fellows as Biff Hall, John McWade, Charlie Clayton, George Hancock, Judge Driggs, George Jenney, Al Shuman, Fred Root, Chatfield Taylor, Wm. J. Calhoun, Elbridge Hanecy, John Barton Payne, Nate Salisbury, Norval Pierce, Charley Hunt, Judge Kohlsaot, Will Moore, Jim Channon, George Charlton, George Ade and Eddie Freiburger. Among the prominent actors who were guests from time to time were such popular stage favorites as Tom Keene, DeWolf Hopper, Richard Mansfield, Wilton Lackaye, Richard Golden, Wm. T. Carlton, Francis Wilson, Edwin Hoff, Henry Clay Barnabee, Edward Sothorn, John Drew, Tom Karl, W. H. MacDonald, Lawrence Barrett, Charles Wyndham, John McCullough, Beerbohm Tree, James O'Neill, Jimmy Powers, Charles Kendall, W. H. Crane, Stuart Robson, Digby Bell, Nat Goodwin, E. S. Willard, Herbert Kelcey, Eugene Cowles, Charles Hawtrey and Max O'Rell the lecturer. The more famous the guest, the more important and responsive was dear old Frei-

The Forty Club's History

berger. Reverend Ernest Stires, our chaplain, is a well-remembered figure in all our early dinners.

¶ "Best of all is remembered dear Will Hall, so many years our president. How he fell heir to the familiar 'Biff,' I don't know, but I suspect it was by reason of his faculty for quick repartee. Every member of the Forty Club remembering the days when he was president will testify to his ready wit and instant touch with a telling reply to any and every sally shied in his direction. He came back with a "biff" every time and so forcibly that I suspect he acquired his well-known nickname for that reason.

¶ "I am particularly indebted to the well-beloved wife of Will Hall for names and data, also for the excellent photograph which adorns the front of our book. A friend of many years, both as Adele Somers and as Mrs. Hall, I am glad to be still reckoned a friend to her and her charming daughters.

¶ "Among the dearest and most impressive remembrances of the Forty Club dinners are the songs John McWade was wont to favor us with, the best of which, in my mind, were 'Sunday Night' and 'The Want of You.' The music of the latter song was composed by Mr. McWade, and nothing could more thoroughly describe his temperament. I doubt if we shall ever hear their like again, and if the young members ever hear anything half so plaintive and sweet, they will not have joined the club without ample recompense."



GEORGE ADE
(Ex-President)

TRUTH is as old as space or time,
And yet it has eternal youth;
He has the gift, rare and sublime,
To show us how to laugh at truth.



JOHN BARTON PAYNE
(Ex-President)

DOES a lawyer only have to stand around
and to the judge and jury act up funny?—
Oh! No!—he doesn't have to stand at all;—
he only has to argue for the money.



WILBUR D. NESBIT
(President)

TO him the gods were very kind;
They gave him humor, grace and wit,
And blessed him with so great a heart
That never with a poisoned dart
Is he inclined to make a hit.



WILLIAM PORTER WILLIAMS
(Vice-President)

AN ambidextrous man is he;
The ones who know him understand.
A wonder in his way—you see
He can toastmast with either hand.



CHARLES H. BURRAS
(Secretary)

THE gods bestow their gifts on men
With many a curious twist and whim;
They handed out an armful when
They chose the gifts they gave to him.



CHARLES F. HEALY
(Treasurer)

CHARLEY is our treasurer;
And him we have to thank
For the fact that we, instead of debts,
Have money in the bank.



DEAN WALTER T. SUMNER
(Chaplain)

WE have said every good thing about him,
We have praised him as well as we could,
Yet we know that we never have given
Our dean all the credit we should;
So imagine that we have repeated
The best things that ever were penned,
And perhaps you will know how we like him
As chaplain, as man and as friend.



SAMUEL ELLSWORTH KISER
(Laureate)

HE weaves the melody of words
As do the joyous bees and birds
Catch all the gladness of the day
And blend it in their happy way
Into a song where gladness is—
So Kiser writes those rhymes of his.

—*Wilbur D. Nesbit.*

MEMBERS
of the
FORTY CLUB





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OWEN BREWER

THE country's going dry, they say,
But though the foes of liquor shout
And though the "wets" are in dismay,
They'll never howl this Brewer out.



WILLIAM J. CALHOUN

WHEN he arrived in China
The Manchus quaked with fear
And said: "We may as well get out;
The grafting game's gone up the spout—
An honest man is here."



JAMES H. CHANNON

WHEN pigs can fly and cows can sing
And cooks no longer ask for pay,
When nothing's wrong with anything,
And all our ills are cleared away;
He will be keeping busy still
Imparting gladness and good will.



GEORGE J. CHARLTON

ALWAYS with a glad hand for a friend,
Always with a kindly word to spare;
Always with a smile that makes you feel
That if trouble came to plague you he
would care.



WILL H. CLARK

A GALLANT horseman, Bill Clark is,
He rides like Paul Revere—
No reins are in his hands, gee whiz!
He hangs on by the ear.



WILL J. DAVIS

LET this on Time's eternal scroll
Of him be largely penned:
"He never sought to harm a soul
And thousands called him friend."



JOSEPH H. DIMERY

A CHERUB'S face and a seraph's smile
And a nature that is simmery,
And a bit of gab and a dash of guile—
If you mix them, that's Joe Dimery.



J. A. EDWARDS

THE voice of a wondrous seer,
The heart of a hero plus;
A laugh that is good to hear—
Signed, "Yours sincerely, GUS."



LEROY A. GODDARD

LARRY Goddard is a banker;
Easy job and splendid pay;
Starts at ten and through at three;
Every week or two he's free,
Having a bank holiday.



THOMAS P. GOODBODY

A **S**PLENDID chap; you'll not detect
Much that is wrong with him;
Yet he is queer in one respect;
His middle name is PIM.



J. F. A. HALBACH

THE F. stands for Fred—and so do the
rest of us,
But the J. and the A. have puzzled the best
of us.
Oh, Fred, please arise and inform the officials
The use that you make of your extra initials.



ELBRIDGE HANECY

SEDATE, stern, dignified and grim;
Observe the stateliness of him.
No monument of ancient Rome,
No towering, majestic dome,
No marble bust that never blinks,
No mystic, solemn, silent sphinx,
No iceberg in the polar sea
Could seem so cold and calm as he—
But then you'd best not be too sure
Until you take his temperature.



CHARLES H. HUNT

THIS, gentle friends, is Charley Hunt;
He, also, does a little stunt;
Who else in all this crowd could rise
With such a twinkle in his eyes?



CHARLES G. HUSE

HE toured through China just last year
And now the cable brings the news
That China's king has quit; we fear
He wants to be as free as Huse.



THOMAS D. KNIGHT

HE must be strong, he must be true
And strive with all his might,
Who would a lance break and win thru
With this, our gallant Knight.



ED. W. MILLER

HE has gone to California,
Where the sun shines all the year;
There the days will all be brighter
And the hearts will all be lighter,
But the days are darker here.



WILL H. MOORE

BELIEVE us, if all your endearing young
 charms,
 As Tom Moore of old sang so fine, now
 and then,
Were to vanish right now, we would search
 all the farms
 And restore all your cheer with a little red
 hen.



FRANK MORRIS

THIS is the robber, as sure's you're born
Against whose guile I fain would warn
The Bibliomaniac, all tattered and torn,
Who pauses to look at some second-hand book
Up on a shelf, all covered with dust,
Marked "Four Dollars for cash, no trust"
Down in the shop that Morris built.

—*Eugene Field.*



LAVERNE W. NOYES

HE plucks the flowers along the way,
And has no time to idly grieve;
By giving gladness where he may
He earns the joy that day by day
It is his fortune to receive.



DAVID A. NOYES

HE smites left-handed when the tee
Is made and there's a ball to smite;
In other ways we'll all agree
That he distinctly is all right.



DR. NORVAL PIERCE

WHEN the Forty Club is ended and the
gavel put away
May we gladly travel with him on the road
to Mandalay.



LYNDON D. POWERS

HE helped to found the Forty Club
And adds unto its joys,
And may it live a hundred years
And find us all alive with cheers
For this one of the boys.



MARVIN B. POOL

CHICAGO is proud of her lake
Which keeps her in summer so cool,
But we of the Forty oft make
Great boasts of our own Marvin Pool.



FRED A. PRICE

WE may live without art, we may live
without books,
We may live without music or ice;
But we cannot have banquets unless we have
cooks,
And what would they be without Price?



GARDNER READ

WHEN Freedom from her mountain height
Unfurled her standard to the air,
She little thought about to-night
For Gardner Read was never there.



LEIGH REILLY

HERE'S a wish for you, Leigh Reilly;
Let's all join in it, brothers:—
May gladness be in store for you
In equal, honest measure to
The joy you've given others.



JOHN RICHARDSON

HE has a taste for all the arts;
In giving joy he finds his gain;
On many glad and grateful hearts
His name is written to remain.



LEROY T. STEWARD

THERE were croakers who said he would
never make good,
There were people who feared he would fail;
The ones who at present cling to the belief
That he wasn't a competent, praiseworthy
chief
Are mostly residing in jail.



DR. C. PRUYN STRINGFIELD

THE glad hand and the smile; but, better
yet,
The willingness to help you on your way,
Without the wish to have you feel the debt—
Glad for the good he does from day to day.



WILLIAM J. SUTHERLAND

WHEN the stein is on the table and the
song is ringing clear,
There is always something lacking if Bill
Sutherland ain't here,
For before we'd do without Bill, for whose
fellowship we long,
We would do without the table and forget
the stein and song.



HERBERT B. SWIFT

THE changing seasons come and go,
The clouds may fall or lift,
The weather may give rain or snow,
But nothing changes Swift.



WILLIAM C. THORNE

BILLY had an auto,
Billy took a spin,
Billy paid a little fine
When they ran him in;
Now he's bought a monoplane,
Rides up in the air,
Coppers wave their arms at him—
Billy doesn't care.



PAUL FREDERICK VOLLAND

THROUGH Life's dull ways he tries to
scatter
A little art to beautify;
It may be hard, but then, no matter,—
It's well worth while to even try.



FRANCIS W. WALKER

HE has a splendid fund of wit
That in its flash is lightning-like,
And yet, unlike the lightning, it
In flashing never fails to strike.

ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS
of the
FORTY CLUB





— 100 —

2. *Handwritten text, possibly a signature or title.*





EDWARD M. ALLEN

SEVEN cities, it is said,
Put in a claim for Homer dead;
How many cities madly strive
To claim this man while he's alive.



LOUIS E. BURR

HE does not wear a plaid or kilts,
He pipes no weird, fantastic strains,
And yet, somehow, we half suspect
That he has Scotch blood in his veins.



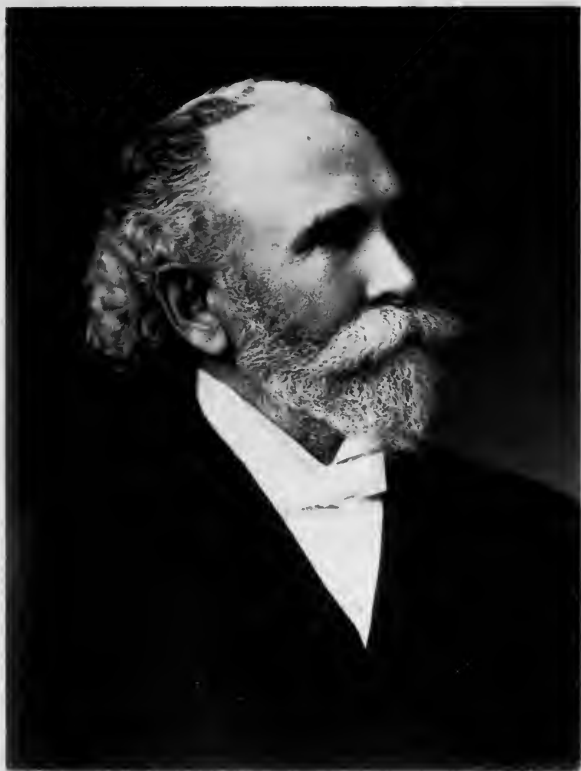
JUDGE GEORGE A. CARPENTER

JUDGE, would you let a man become
A juror in a packer's case
If he had been endowed with sense
Enough to tell the difference
Between a two-spot and an ace?



CHARLES S. CASTLE

HOWEVER dark the clouds may be,
His days are always sunny,
Because he has a chance, you see,
To spend them counting money.



DR. GEORGE M. CHAMBERLIN

WE have no mistress of the robes,
No privy council we maintain,
But, being royal fellows all,
We do have a Grand Chamberlain.



A. SHELDON CLARK

SOME men are born to sadly frown,
Some men to praise and some to scoff;
But, whether he is up or down,
He wears the smile that won't come off.



FRED E. COYNE

A HALE good fellow all the while,
A boon companion and a spender,
Prepared with ready song and smile,—
This Coyne is always legal tender.



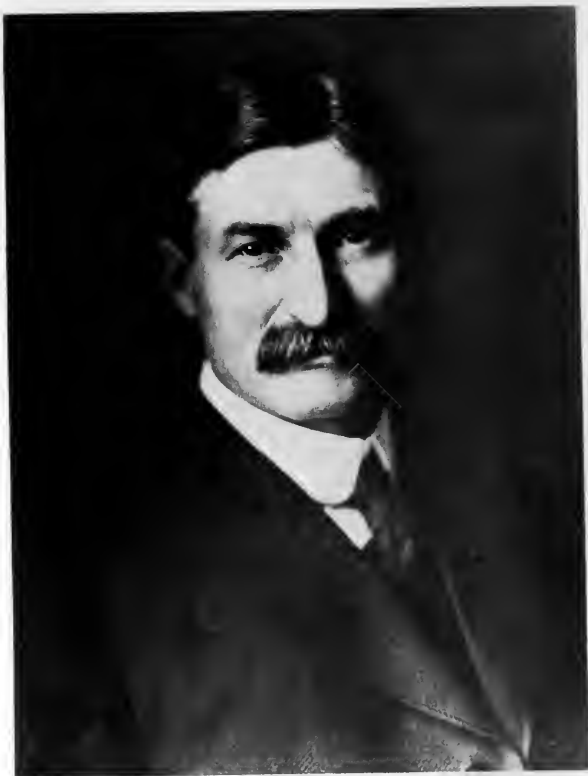
AUGUSTUS D. CURTIS

SOME other folks are out of date
And they are listed as B. C.,
But Curtis—now, let's get this straight—
Belongs to *now*—he is A. D.



WILLIAM W. DEWEES

HE'S not inclined to be a dude,
His clothes are splendid, none the less ;
He doesn't often make a speech,
But he's a man of good address.



JOHN DRENNAN

HE loses sleep 'most every night—
But don't let that look strange to you.
He lies awake till almost light
And thinks of friendly things to do.



MILTON J. FOREMAN

HE can tell you when the sphinx was built
and why;
He can tell you just what Caesar did and
how;
He can tell you how old Cato lost his eye,
But he couldn't wean the offspring of a cow.



CHARLES K. FOSTER

THE rhymes that we might write of him
In friendship might make light of him,
So here's the thing to tell of him:
The neighbors all speak well of him.



GUY GUERNSEY

HE winds about and in and out
And with a faith sublime
Is always pretty prominent
About election time.



BENNETT GRIFFIN

WHEN Bennett Griffin is not smiling,
He may not be a handsome creature;
But does he ever, day or night,
Put off the smile that seems to light
And glorify his every feature?



KARL EDWIN HARRIMAN

HE once wrote a book about Sadie,
Whose past was a little bit shady;
'Twas a well written book,
But, Karl, where did you look
For your facts concerning the lady?



FRED'K HIGBIE

HE does not sing or dance or see
The good points of another's game;
But he has found out how to be
A right good fellow, just the same.



JOHN U. HIGINBOTHAM

THEY ask what's the matter with Kansas,
Where old Walt Mason writes stanzas;
They have acres to spare,
But John isn't there,
And *THAT'S* what's the matter with Kansas.



WILLIAM H. JUERGENS

HE has a most peculiar heart;
For treating it no doctors charge—
The information we'll impart:
His heart is simply very large.



C. GEORGE KROGNESS

THERE is no rhyme for Krogness,
At least, so we have heard,
Unless it may be Grogness,
But there is no such word.



LOUIS W. LANDMAN

KIND sir, if you could have a feast
Commensurate with our good wishes,
The board would fill Grant Park, at least;
'Twould take the lake to wash the dishes.



JOHN R. LENFESTEY

HE in his life has played a-many parts,
Has pictured life as but few others can,
But never needed histrionic arts
To play the grand old part of gentleman.



JOHN LEE MAHIN

SOME men are born wise, some men are
born rich,
Some men are born fearless and plucky,
But the luckiest one are the ones he invites
To stay a few days and likewise a few nights
On his little old farm in Kentucky.



J. H. McCORTNEY

HE will sell you a lot and build you a
house
And lend you the money, all right;
But he won't lay the carpets or furnish the
meals
Or sing to the babies at night.



CHARLES A. McCULLOCH

HE'S just about as tall as he is thick and
wide,
And the architect that planned him drew
his plan
With the principal idea to have a place inside
For a heart as big as that of any man.



EDWARD K. ORR

HE is so quiet, so subdued,
And yells in such a gentle tone
That, not intending to be rude
Or wishing to begin a feud,
We hand to Ed a megaphone.



CHARLES M. PARKER

O DREAMER of dreams, and doer of deeds,
This is our choicest wish to you;
Whatever your hopes and whatever your needs
Some day may your dreams into deeds come
true.



CLARENCE F. PARKER

FILL up this cup to one made up
Of excellence alone,
Both day and night he is all right,
As he has always shown.



DR. MILTON B. PINE

WITH a smile that never fades
And good nature, rain or shine,
Do you wonder why it was
That the Club made room for Pine?



WILLIAM H. RANKIN

HE is a Hoosier product, but he only
brought from there
The Hoosier sunshine in his smile, the sunset
in his hair.



JOSEPH A. RUSHTON

HE'S a follower of Nimrod;
Many hunting grounds he's tried,
And he never shot a goose
Or a rabbit or a moose,
Thinking that it was a guide.



JOHN C. SHAFFER

A JAILER he, you'd scarce believe it,
But all our hearts he doth enthrall,
He makes of us his willing captives,—
Kindness the chain and love the ball.



EDWARD W. SIMS

WHEN Teddy's in the chair again
Ed Sims will hear this call:
"Come, Ed., and have a seat by me,
For it is up to you to be
Attorney General."



JOSEPH H. STRONG

MAN wants but little here below
Nor wants that little long;
We may remark, in passing, though,
We want our little Strong.



EDWARD A. ST. JOHN

THEY didn't tell us much about you,
We're somewhat doubtful even now;
But this we know, you are descended
From a good old family, anyhow.



JOHN R. THOMPSON

HE has beheld Chicago rise
To greatness and world-wide renown,
And as a leading citizen
Confers an honor on the town.



WILLIAM HALE THOMPSON

SOME men must pound and some must
plow,
And some engage in deadly strife;
He, luckily, has found out how
To merely smile his way through life.



GEORGE TRAMEL

THE sweetest music to his ears
Is the swishing of the spray;
When all the sails are spread and care's
A million miles away.



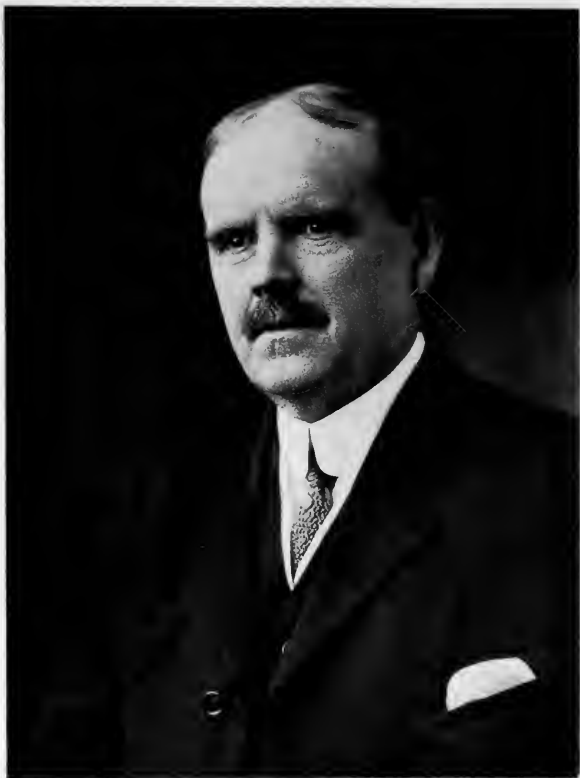
HERBERT VANDERHOOF

IF you should wonder why it is
That he appears to be so glad,
The fact is, there's a little girl
Who'll learn some day to call him "Dad."



WARREN WRIGHT

WE'D make a song
Here, if we might;
But we'd be wrong
And he'd be Wright.



JAS. M. WARNER

YOU would not think it could be so
To judge him by his face;
But even he has been inclined—
Oh, merely now and then, to find
The world a dismal place.

HONORARY
MEMBERS
of the
FORTY CLUB





MISS MARY ANN

MISS MARY ANN
was born at
the residence of her
father, Mr. J. H. H.
on the 10th day of
the month of
the year 1850.



RICHARD BENNETT

HE'S a serious man, with a serious way
Of presenting a serious theme,
But he reaches your heart when you sit
through his play
Till you feel the effect for a-many a day
And your life has a sunnier gleam.



ALBERT BOROFF

THE fates were very, very kind
To bless him with the gift of song;
And to his credit, be it said,
We do not have to tease him long.



DR. FRANK CRANE

HOW good a world this world would be
If all men in it were as he;
For he can keep from going wrong,
And yet be cheerful right along.



JOSEPH H. DeFREES

YOU might not think it could be so,
And yet such is the case:
De Frees was in Chicago when
'Twas just a little place.



FRED GARDNER

HE might have come from Hackensack
Or Fond du Lac or Kinderhook,
But, anyhow, he'd never lack
A cheerful and contented look.



JOHN HYAMS

WE have all had girls of our dreams,
Girls who were graceful and fair,
Girls who were angels, indeed,
Girls with whom none could compare;
But the girls of our dreams disappeared,
They were wraiths that eluded our sight,
While the girl of his dreams is his own,
And he wins her anew every night.



HERBERT KING

GLOOM folds her tent when Herbert sings,
And kindness claims our hearts;
Thanks for the pleasure that he brings
And willingly imparts.



DR. WILLIAM F. LARKIN

WHEN Larkin sings, the little birds
Fly up and listen to his words,
And as he turns the music loose
They chirp all sadly: "What's the use?"



JOHN T. McCUTCHEON

HE holds the mirror up to nature
And by his clever, mystic spell
He shows her such a pleasing image
That nature likes it pretty well.

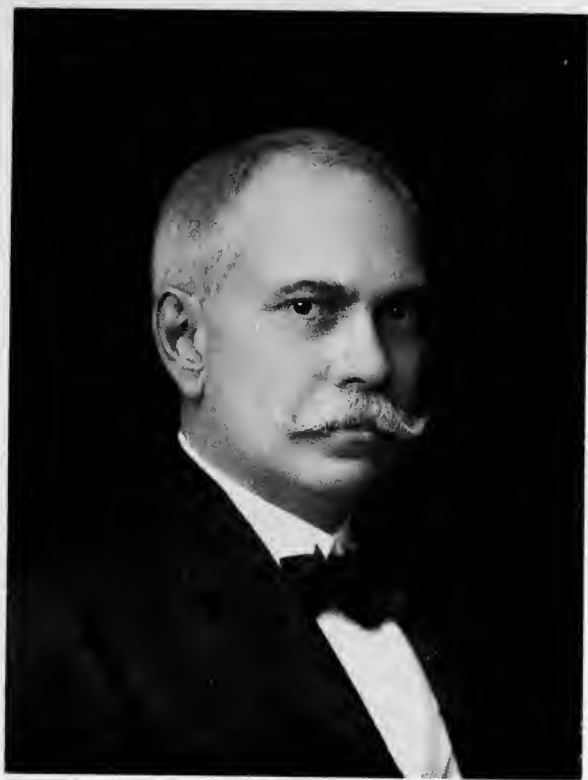
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NON-RESIDENT
MEMBERS
of the
FORTY CLUB







JOHN BOLAND

WE often wonder, as you may,
What pleasure would be his
If he found others every day
As cheerful as he is.



HOMER CARR

ANOTHER Homer! What delight
Would be old Homer's if he might
Know that this Homer spreads his fame
And adds new honor to his name.



EDWARD WILSON DONAHOE

WHEN he was young and in his prime
He'd go out for a gay old time.
Don't urge him now, or, bless your heart,
He'll show you how to make a start.



FRANK E. WILSON

HE travels east, he travels west,
He travels much, he travels far;
He never has to pay his fare,
Because he has a private car;
He keeps a corps of men to take
Such orders as he may be giving;
The funny thing about it is
He calls this working for a living.

Forty Club Members, 1888

William T. Hall, *President*
Edward Freiberger, *Secretary*

H. C. Chatfield-Taylor, *Vice-Pres.*
Harry G. Sommers, *Treasurer*

Members of Executive Committee

Gen. H. A. Wheeler ✕ E. W. Kohlsaatt Montgomery Gibbs

Resident Members

Akin, Henry F.	Hall, William T.	Powers, L. D.
Allen, James Lane	Hamlin, George J.	Reilly, Leigh
Barron, Elwyn A.	Hancock, George W.	Root, Frederick W.
Chatfield-Taylor, H. C.	Horton, O. H. Judge	Scales, Judge Frank
Clayton, Chas. B.	Jenks, E. W.	Smith, Harry B.
Cone, George W.	Jenney, Geo. H.	Sommers, Harry G.
Crawford, S. A.	Kayzer, Samuel	Stevenson, Chas. A.
Defrees, J. H.	Kohlsaatt, Judge C. C.	Stires, Rev. Ernest M.
Dew, Chas. A.	Kohlsaatt, Ernest W.	Stone, Melville E.
Ewing, Judge W. G.	Kuhns, E. Louis	Taylor, Wm. A.
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